

Harmon S. Dixon Diary

S361

1901-1902

1folder

Manuscripts & Rare Books Division
Indiana State Library

Finding Aid by: Nikki Stoddard Schofield, March 2014

Biographical Note:

Harmon S. Dixon was born February 22, 1876 to William Trevanian Weir and Demiah Azalia (James) Dixon, who lived in Hamilton, Jackson County, Indiana, in 1880. Also in the family that year were Harmon's older brother Frank H., born July 20, 1871, and two younger sisters, Savannah E., age one, and Nancy O., age four months.

Harmon was in Company D, 18th U.S. Infantry, and served during the Philippines Insurrection. He kept a diary from March 18, 1899 through March 17, 1902, which is on a microfilm reel in the Indiana State Library vault. This portion of his diary was written while he was stationed near Cheyenne, Wyoming. On March 25, 1903, Harmon married Stella Taylor. In 1920, Harmon and Stella lived in Haw Creek, Bartholomew County, Indiana. They had five children plus Stella's mother, Della Taylor (age 45) living with them. The children were: Ethel M. (age 13), Mildred T. (age 13), Lola E. (age 11), Lewis W. (age 8), and Ernest P. (age 3).

In his diary, Harmon mentions two brothers, Frank and Ernest. In 1900, Frank was a boarder in the home of Leman and Jennie Anderson, in Indianapolis. On March 20, 1901, Frank married Mary A. Thomas, in Indianapolis. The 1930 and 1940 federal censuses list Frank with his wife Alice E. The 1940 census has his occupation as a messenger in government work, earning \$500. He died in January 1944. The front of this diary has: Frank H. Dixon, 1609 W. New York Street, Indianapolis, Indiana, which meant that it was mistakenly catalogued as belonging to him. However, the entries indicate that this is Harmon's diary.

Source:

Ancestry.com accessed on 2/27/2014

Scope and Content:

This is a photocopy of a handwritten diary with two pages (each page measuring 4" x 6") on each sheet. The entries begin November 21, 1901, and end with March 17, 1902. On Nov. 24, Harmon wrote: "Company K, 23rd Inf. left here at 1:30 p.m. for Fort McPherson, Ga." Nov. 27, he wrote: "Received notice that the money for our pay would be shipped today. The guns for the artillery came last night." The next day was

Thanksgiving, and he wrote: "A big dinner today, the best I have had since I left home. Done nothing in afternoon. The money in Cheyenne but we did not get paid."

Harmon mentioned relatives – Aunt Elva Nugent and Uncle Alex Nugent; brothers Frank and Ernest; sisters Maymie and Ruby; Grandma and Grandpa James; and Uncle W. W. James. On January 1, 1902, he wrote: "Governor Richard and staff called on the Col. and other officers at 3:00 p.m." He mentions going into Cheyenne during the day on several occasions.

On January 20, he wrote: "A sergeant of the Signal Corp arrived here today to install a system of telephones." Three days later, he wrote: "The telephone system was completed today." January 25, Harmon's entry stated: "About 4 inches of snow, a high wind and 13 below zero. Talk of a troop of Cavalry coming here." January 29, he wrote: "Two general prisoners of 13th Battery escaped last night by cutting a bar." February 10, the troop of cavalry arrived.

On Feb. 17, Harmon wrote: "I have just one month from today to serve." On Feb. 28, he entered: "Mustered this morning for the last time." March 11, his entry read: "I went to Cheyenne in the afternoon and saw Al Rush who was discharged today." March 4, Harmon wrote: "The Colonel preparing to go to Fort Washakie tonight." March 9's entry read: "Co. G and 13th Battery played base ball this afternoon. G mowed under." The next day, Harmon wrote: "I drew \$13.75, my last pay while in the army."

The final six pages list dollar amounts received for painting and construction done by his brothers Frank and Ernest as well as himself. He also lists dates and time worked on various projects.

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Collection Inventory Folder Listing:

Diary of Harmon S. Dixon, 1901-1902

Date	
11-21-1901	First entry
3-17-1902	Last entry

Collection Information:

Size of Collection:	1folder.
Collection Dates:	1901-1902
Provenance:	Mrs. Dolph O. Harrod, Flat Rock, IN, 10/10/1968
Access:	The Collection is Open for Research Use
Restrictions:	None.
Reproduction Rights:	Permission to reproduce, exhibit, or publish material in this collection must be obtained from the Manuscript and Rare Books Division, Indiana State Library.
Language:	Materials are entirely in: English
Alternate Formats:	See also Microfilm – positive, in I.S.L. vault
Related Holdings:	Microfilm includes this written portion plus additional diary entries and the Soldiers Handbook by N. Hershler, published in 1898, which belonged to Harmon.
Collection Notes:	None.